



U.S. Department of Justice

**Stephen J. Murphy
United States Attorney
Eastern District of Michigan**

*Suite 2001
211 West Fort Street
Detroit, Michigan 48226-3277
Fax: (313) 226-3561*

For Immediate Release:

Contact: Gina Balaya (313) 226-9758
Carl Rusnok - ICE (214)905-5291

July 14, 2005

EVENT: Guilty Pleas

Defendant: Daher Sarhan Al-Mayahi and Ali Hawil and others

**TWO DEARBORN RESIDENTS PLEAD
GUILTY TO DOCUMENT AND VISA FRAUD**

Daher Sarhan Al-Mayahi, 37 of Dearborn Heights, Michigan and Ali Hawil, 34 of Dearborn, Michigan pleaded guilty today in Detroit federal court to one count each of Conspiracy to Commit Document Fraud and Visa Fraud announced United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy, and Brian M. Moskowitz, Special Agent In Charge, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security. The guilty pleas were offered before United States District Judge Arthur J. Tarnow.

The information presented to the court at the time of the guilty pleas showed that between November 10, 2003 and April 28, 2005, Daher Al-Mayahi, Ali Hawil and others, including employees of the Michigan Secretary of State, conspired to possess hundreds of false, counterfeit and fraudulently obtained passports, visas, birth certificates, and driver's licenses within the Detroit, Michigan metropolitan area, which they used themselves unlawfully in some instances and in other instances transferred the documents unlawfully to others, including to illegal aliens already present within the United States. Al-Mayahi, who is a citizen of Iraq, and Hawil, who is a citizen of Guinea, also each possessed a counterfeit Guinean

Passport and a counterfeit U.S. Visa bearing their likeness but with a false name.

In announcing the guilty pleas, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy, commended the work of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, who conducted a “diligent and thorough” investigation. The prosecution was handled by Assistant United States Attorney Kenneth R. Chadwell.

“This case underscores the seriousness with which my office and the Department of Homeland Security view the possession and issuance of fraudulent identity documents which can be used to facilitate the movement of illegal aliens, criminals and terrorists throughout our country,” said United States Attorney Murphy.

“Homeland Security and ICE simply will not tolerate those who put our Nation’s security at risk by trafficking in fraudulent identity documents. With this undercover operation we’ve stopped an international criminal organization that compromised our system for issuing immigration and identity documents through fraud and corruption, stated Brian M. Moskowitz, Special Agent In Charge of the ICE Office of Investigations in Detroit. “I want to commend the excellent work by U.S. Customs and Border Protection Officers in Louisville, Kentucky, for initially seizing foreign documents which led to ICE’s investigation. I’d also want to thank our partners on this case from the U.S. Postal Inspection Service for their outstanding efforts. The U.S. Border Patrol in Detroit also provided important information supporting this case.”

Al-Mayahi and Hawil each face maximum penalties of 25 years imprisonment and \$500,000 in fines as a result of their convictions.

Hawil has already been ordered deported to Iraq following service of his sentence.